

bone marrow, nasal mucosa, hair follicles and fact cells, are today successfully used in treating real people who suffer from at least 72 specific diseases. Successes include, among the 72 diseases, Parkinson's Disease, Crohn's Disease, diabetes, spinal-cord injury, strokes, arthritis and numerous cancers, including breast, brain and leukemia.

Conversely, proponents cannot name a single person with improved health due to embryonic stem-cell research. Embryonic stem cells may never produce a safe and effective treatment for any disease. The political hype declaring them a cure-all today cannot be sustained by the facts. If successful, however, the necessary next step must be to clone the cells. It is logistically impossible to provide enough embryonic stem cells without human cloning.

Another falsehood is the excuse that the embryos would otherwise be thrown away. None of the embryos were created for research. Every embryo was created for the sole purpose of giving parenthood to those who yearn for it. Over 90 percent of frozen embryos are now stored by their parents, who hope to have more children or to provide for embryo adoption to other couples. At least 500,000 couples are on waiting lists to adopt children. For each available embryo, 45 couples wait in line to adopt that child.

So far, more than 80 formerly frozen embryos have been adopted by families. Now these "snowflake babies" are giggle, screaming, playful children. It is a glorious miracle for couples who imagined they would never experience parenthood, much less pregnancy and childbirth. These "snowflakes," some of whom were frozen for 9 years, are as worthy of our protection as every child. They are not medical waste.

Proponents of this research say they cannot look a paraplegic in the eye and say, "We can't experiment on frozen embryos." I ask them, can you hold the "snowflake babies" in your arms and look their moms and dads in the eye and tell them, "I wish we had experimented on your children before they learn to walk, to talk, to love, to laugh and play?"

The American medical community has many times refused the results of critical research because the findings were achieved unethically. International standards for Permissible Medical Experiments are clear. The subject must be a volunteer, there must be no alternative, results of animal experimentation must have been proven successful, they subject must be able to voluntarily end the experiment, there must be no possibility of injury, disability, or death, and the promise must outweigh the risk.

Embryonic stem-cell research violates each of these principles. Principles for Permissible Medical Experiments may be found in the military tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10, October, 1946, Nuremberg.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID GONZALEZ

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David Gonzalez on his retirement from the Rural Development Agency of the

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on January 3rd, 2007.

David Gonzalez began his career with the USDA Rural Development Agency, which was previously known as Farmers Home Administration, on May 26, 1971 as a student trainee in San Diego, Texas. He received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Texas A&M University at Kingsville in 1972 and returned back to work with the Farmers Home Administration in San Benito, Texas, as an assistant county supervisor. Five years later, he was promoted to county supervisor for Willacy County and then transferred to Edinburg in Hidalgo County.

Mr. Gonzalez's commitment to his service with the agency was recognized with his next promotion to assistant district director in Rio Grande City in 1980 and then to area director for the Rio Grande Valley in 1991. He served with distinction and honor for 16 years in the Rio Grande Valley, and helped to provide crucial funding to the communities in the area. Mr. Gonzalez has given back so much to the community in the Rio Grande Valley in his tenure with the Rural Development Agency. After working tirelessly for nearly two decades, he will enjoy his retirement with his wife, Edna, and his five grandchildren, Daniel David, Jorge Alberto, Zenon David, Dayna Dalinda, and Dennis David.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication of David Gonzalez to the Rio Grande Valley community.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, since coming to Congress in 1984, I have consistently supported efforts to protect and conserve many wildlife species. I am an enthusiastic defender of the Endangered Species Act and have voted in favor of the African Elephant Conservation Act of 1988, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000, the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 and the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004.

In fact, several of these laws were reauthorized or initially enacted during my 6-year tenure as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. During this period, I conducted numerous oversight hearings on these conservation programs and I became intimately aware of the plight of Asian elephants. Frankly, I was startled to learn that in the early 1990s there were less than 40,000 Asian elephants living throughout the world in the wild. These wild populations were located in 13 south and southeastern Asian countries. In addition, there were only 14 populations of 1,000 or more individual elephants in a contiguous area which greatly reduced the long-term viability of this species.

In response to this international wildlife crisis, I introduced the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997. After hearings, markups and

floor debate, I was honored that President Bill Clinton signed this important legislation into law on November 7, 1997. The fundamental goal of Public Law 105-96 was to create the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.

During the past decade, the Secretary of the Interior has carefully reviewed nearly 300 conservation grant proposals to assist beleaguered Asian elephants. I am pleased to report that 171 grants have been awarded to various governmental and non-governmental entities. These grants have received \$7.8 million in Federal funds and in excess of \$10 million in private matching money.

The types of approved projects funded include emergency elephant conservation support for those countries adversely affected by the tsunami disaster in Indonesia; erecting fences in Sri Lanka; establishing an elephant conservation working group in Thailand; promoting eco-tourism of elephants; increase the capacity of wildlife rangers in India; assess the habitat needs of elephants in Malaysia and implement a program for monitoring the illegal killing of elephants. Among the recipients of these grants were the Conservation International, Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wild Fund for Nature and Wildlife Trust of India.

Madam Speaker, these conservation funds have had a profound impact on protecting these irreplaceable species and in the long run I am convinced they will help to ensure that they will not disappear in the future. By allowing a small amount of Federal funds, our Government has been able to finance worthwhile projects to stop the extinction of Asian elephants.

The legislation I am proposing today, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act, will extend this vital law at existing authorization levels until September 30, 2012. This will allow the Secretary of the Interior to approve additional meritorious projects in the future.

Ten years ago, during the initial hearing on my bill, H.R. 1787, a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified that: "the Asian Elephant Conservation Act would . . . send a strong message to the world that the people of the United States care deeply about Asian elephants and that the U.S. Government is committed to helping preserve this keystone species."

There is no question that we need to reauthorize this important law and I urge my colleagues to work with me to make this a reality. As President Theodore Roosevelt once noted, "the nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation, increased and not impaired in value." The road to extinction is a one-way street and we must work to ensure that the Asian elephant does not make that journey.

#### HONORING ARMY PFC EMILY S. PETTIGREW

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of Emily S. Pettigrew, an honorable soldier who